iBudget News

The iManage Budget Solution

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SBS Is Now iBudget

Key Component of iManage Vision

The Standard Budget System (SBS) is now known as iBudget. It is a key component of the iManage vision that leverages information technology for enhanced mission support by:

- Connecting Our People,
- Simplifying Our Work, and
- Liberating Our Data.

Upcoming iBudget Demos

Please join the iBudget Team for a demonstration of functionality that will be rolled out in Release 1 and 2. This includes software models for PALS, Funding, Program Direction, and Control. We invite you to take part in one of two sessions:

- Forrestal: Wednesday, October 8, 10-11:30 am
- Germantown: Thursday, October 9, 10-11:30 am

This will be your opportunity to learn more and discuss with your peers and the iBudget Team.

The iBudget Impact: Interview with Owen Barwell

Owen Barwell, Deputy CFO, is the executive sponsor for the iBudget (formerly SBS) Team. In a recent interview, we asked Owen to discuss the future impact of iBudget on DOE.

How will iBudget help the financial management community meet the challenges of a decreasing workforce?

"Using our own data from CHRIS, I forecast that we shall lose a third of our employees in the financial management community across the Department due to retirement. This is a phenomenal number – for all the wrong reasons! The budget community will be hit hard too – there is no escape. It is therefore imperative that we continue to figure out ways to simplify our work. Today, we formulate and publish a $24BN budget using Microsoft Word and Excel. Our budget history is available in paperback form – each fiscal year occupies about a foot and a half on my bookshelf. We have to do better than this. Heroic efforts should not be normal business operations. It will be hard work to get iBudget done; however, from what I have seen in the demos, will make our lives easier while providing a better service overall. "

What type of impact do you envision iBudget having on the DOE budget community?

"I think the impact will be phenomenal – but this time for all the right reasons! There will be a time when we ask ourselves, "How did we ever get a budget out before iBudget?" Nevertheless there's a good deal to get done in the meantime, and we still have to prove that the underlying tools and technologies are going to work for us. However, to mitigate the implementation risks, we are adopting a rapid application development-like approach and also kicking off pilots too. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts and support so far, and in advance of getting iBudget done.

I asked for the change in name from SBS – to make the point that we are doing much, much more than just implementing a system. Over time we shall standardize and automate the formulation, publication, and execution of our budget. This will need more than just bits and bytes; it will also need the significant cooperation and collaboration of our people, as well as more efficient and effective budgeting processes. But the biggest impact? Freeing up time on the mechanics to spend on analysis instead – we need to do something with the numbers."

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